THE CHARGE GIVEN BY THE Ld. Ch. Juſtice Jefferies, AT THE CITY of BRISTOL,

Monday, September 21. 1685.

In his Return from his Weſtern Campaigne.

Gentlemen,

I Am, by the Mercy of God, come to this great and populous City, a City that boaſts both of its Riches and Trade, and may juſtly indeed claim the next place to the great and populous Metropolis of this Kingdom. Gentlemen, I find here are a great many Auditors, who are very intent, as if they expected ſome formal or prepared Speech, but aſſure your ſelves, we come not to make neither ſet Speeches; nor formal Declamations, nor to follow a couple of puffing Trumpeters; for, Lord, we have ſeen thoſe things Twenty times before: No, we come to do the King's buſineſs; a King who is ſo Gracious as to uſe all the means poſſible to diſcover the Diſorders of the Nation, and to ſearch out thoſe who, indeed, are the very Peſt of the Kingdom: To this end, and for this purpoſe are we come to this City. But I find a ſpecial Commiſſion is an unuſual thing here, and reliſhes very ill; nay, the very Women ſtorm at it, for fear we ſhould take the upper hand of them too; for by the by, Gentlemen, I hear it is much in faſhion in this City for the Women to govern and bear ſway. But, Gentlemen, I will not ſtay you with ſuch needleſs Stories, I will only mention ſome few things that fall within my knowledg; for Points or Matters of Law I ſhall not trouble you, but only mind you of ſome things that lately hath happened, and particularly in this City (for I have the Kalender of this City in my Pocket); and if I do not expreſs my ſelf in ſo formal or ſet a Declamation (for as I told you, I came not to make Declamations) or in ſo ſmooth Language as you may expect, you muſt attribute it partly to the pain of the Stone, under which I labour, and partly to the unevenneſs of this days journey.

Gentlemen, I may ſay, that even ſome of the youngeſt amongſt us may remember the late horrid Rebellion, how men, under colour of Law, and pretext of Juſtice, after they had diveſted a moſt Gracious and moſt Merciful Prince

of

of all his Royal Power, by the Power of the Sword; they, I ſay, under colour of Law, and pretext of Juſtice (which added the more to the Crime, that it was done under colour of ſuch pretended Juſtice) brought the moſt Mild and Meekeſt Prince (next to our ever Bleſſed Saviour Jeſus Chriſt, if we may but compare him to a Man) to die a Martyr, the firſt bleſſed Martyr, (pardon the expreſſion; beſides our moſt bleſſed Jeſu, who ſuffered for us on the Croſs, I ſay, beſides that Bleſſed Son of God) this, I ſay, was the firſt Royal Martyr; not ſuffering him to ſpeak for himſelf, or make his defence; a Liberty which is given to the vileſt Traitor; and this was done (not to deſcant on the number) by Forty one. The Rebels not reſting here, for Rebellion is like the ſin of Witchcraft, Diveſted the Lineal, Legal, and Rightful Heir of the Crown, of all his Power and Prerogative, till the Mighty God of Heaven and Earth, God Almighty, reſtored him to his Juſt Right: And he, as if begot in Mercy, not only forgave all Offences, and pardoned voluntarily, even all that had been in actual Arms againſt him (excepting thoſe accurſed Regicides) but alſo made it a Crime for any one that ſhould but remember, or upbraid any of their paſt Crimes and Rebellions. Good God! O Jeſu! that we ſhould live in ſuch an Age, in which ſuch a Prince cannot be ſafe from the ſeditious contrivances of Pardoned Rebels! Had we not the *Rye* Conſpiracy, wherein they not only deſigned to have Murthered that Moſt Bleſſed (for ſo now we may conclude him to be with God Almighty) and Gracious King, but alſo his Moſt ever Dear and Victorious Brother? Had we not the Bill of Excluſion, which our moſt Gracious King told us, he could not, without a manifeſt Infringement of the Royal Prerogatives of the Crown (which are too ſacred for us to touch) conſent to? Had we not the Curſed Counſel of *Abitophel*? Kings are God's Vicegerents on Earth, and are indeed God's on Earth, and we Repreſent them. Now when God Almighty had of his Infinite Goodneſs, called this Bleſſed Prince unto himſelf, he ſends a Prince, who aſſures us he will imitate his Royal Brother and Renowned Predeceſſor in all things, eſpecially in that of his Clemency and Mercy, and that too upon the word of a King. A King, I will aſſure you, that will not be worſe than his Word. Nay (Pardon the Expreſſion) that dare not be worſe than his Word. Which of you all, that had a Father Murthered by another, (and that deliberately too, under colour of Juſtice, which added to the Crime; and your Brother, nay your ſelves thruſt out from your Inheritance, and baniſhed from your Country; nay, that ſought your Blood likewiſe) would not when it was in your power revenge ſuch Injuries, and ruin ſuch Perſecutors. But here our moſt bleſſed Prince, whom God long preſerve, hath not only forgiven, but will venture his Life for the Defence of ſuch his Enemies? Has he not ventured his Life already, as far as any man, for the Honour of theſe Kingdoms? Nay, I Challenge this City to ſhew me any one man of it, that perchance may not be worth a Groat, that has ventured his life ſo far for the ſafety of theſe Kingdoms, as this Royal Prince hath done. Good God! what an Age do we live in! ſhall not ſuch a Prince be ſecure from the Sedition, Rebellion and Plots of Men? He is ſcarce ſeated on his Royal Throne (where God Almighty grant he may long reign) but on the one hand he is invaded by a Condemned Rebel, and Arch traytor, who hath received the juſt reward of his Rebellion. On the other hand up ſtarts a Poppet Prince, who ſeduces the Mobile into Rebellion, into which they are eaſily bewitched; for I ſay, Rebellion is like the ſin of Witchcraft; this man who had as little Title to the Crown as the leaſt of you (for I hope all you are Legitimate) being overtaken by Juſtice, and by the goodneſs of his

Prince

Prince brought to the Scaffold, he has the confidence (good God! that men ſhould be ſo impudent) to ſay, *That God Almighty did know with what joyfulneſs he did die*, (a Traytor) ; having for theſe two years laſt paſt lived in all Incontinency and Rebellion, notwithſtanding the goodneſs of an Indulgent Prince ſo often to pardon him ; but it is juſt like him. Rebellion (as I told you) is like the ſin of Witchcraft. For there was another which I ſhall not name, becauſe I will not trample on the duſt of the Dead, but you may remember him by the words of his Speech ; he tells you, *That he thanks his God that he falls by the Ax, and not by the Fiery Trial.* He had rather (he had as good have ſaid) die a Traytor than a Bleſſed Martyr.

Great God of Heaven and Earth! what reaſon have men to Rebel! But as I told you, Rebellion is like the ſin of Witchcraft ; *Fear God and Honour the King*, is rejected by People for no other Reaſon, as I can find, but that it is written in St. *Peter*. Gentlemen, I muſt tell you, I am afraid that this City hath too many of theſe People in it. And it is your Duty to ſearch them out ; for this City added much to that Ships Loading; there was your *Tyly's*, your *Roe's*, and your *Wades* mer, ſtarted up like Muſhrooms, Scoundrel Fellows, mere Sons of Dunghills ; theſe men muſt forſooth ſet up for Liberty and Property. A Fellow that carries the Sword before Mr. *Maior* muſt be very careful of his Property, and turn Politician, as if he had as much Property as the Perſon before whom he bears the Sword ; though perchance not worth a Groat. Gentlemen, I muſt tell you, you have ſtill here the *Tyly's*, the *Roe's*, and the *Wade's* : I have brought a Bruſh in my Pocket, and I ſhall be ſure to Rub the Dirt where ever it is, or on whomſoever it ſticks. Gentlemen, I ſhall not ſtand Complementing with you, I ſhall talk with ſome of you before you and I part : I tell you, I tell you, I have brought a Beſome, and I will ſweep every Mans door, whether great or ſmall. Muſt I mention Particulars? I hope you will ſave me that trouble ; yet I will hint a few things to you, that perchance I have heard of. This is a great City, and the Magiſtrates wonderful Loyal, and very forward to aſſiſt the King with Men, Money and Proviſions, when the Rebels were juſt at your Gates : I do believe it would have went very hard with ſome of you if the Enemy had entred the City, notwithſtanding the Endeavours that was uſed to accompliſh it. Certainly they had and muſt have great incouragement from a Party within, or elſe why ſhould their Deſign be on this City. Nay, when the Enemy was within a Mile of you, that a Ship ſhould be ſet on fire in the midſt of you as a Signal to the Rebels, and to amuſe thoſe within; when if God Almighty had not been more gracious unto you han you was to your ſelves ; (ſo that Wind and Tyde was for you), for what I know, the greateſt part of this City had periſhed ; and yet you are willing to believe it was Accident. Certainly here is a great many of thoſe men which they call *Trimmers*. A *Whig* is but a meer Fool to theſe ; for a *Whig* is ſome ſort of a ſubject in compariſon of theſe ; for a *Trimmer* is but a Cowardly and baſe ſpirited *Whig* ; for the *Whig* is but the Journey-man-Prentice, that is hired, and ſet on in the Rebellion, whileſt the *Trimmer* is afraid to appear in the Cauſe ; he ſtands at a doubt, and ſays to himſelf, I will not aſſiſt the King until I ſee who has the beſt of it ; And refuſes to entertain the King's Friends for fear the Rebels ſhould get the better of it. Theſe men ſtink worſe than the worſt dirt you have in your City ; theſe men have ſo little Religion, that they forget that he that is not for us is againſt us. Gentlemen, I tell you, I have the Kalender of this City here in my hand. I have heard of thoſe that have ſearched into the very ſink of a Conventicle to find

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out ſome ſneaking Raſcal to hide their Money by night. Come, come, Gentlemen, to be plain with you, I find the dirt of the Ditch is in your Noſtrils. Good God! where am I, in *Briſtol!* this City it ſeems claims the Privilege of Hanging and Drawing amongſt themſelves; I find you have more need of a Commiſſion once a Month at leaſt. The very Magiſtrates which ſhould be the Miniſters of Juſtice, fall out one with another to that degree, they will ſcarce Dine with each other, whilſt it is the buſineſs of ſome cunning men that lye behind the Curtain to raiſe Diviſions amongſt them, and ſet them together by the Ears, and knock their Logger-heads together; yet I find they can agree for their Intereſt. Or if there be but a Kid in the caſe; for I hear the Trade of Kid-napping is of much Requeſt in this City, they can diſcharge a Felon, or a Traytor, provided they will go to Mr. *Alderman*'s Plantation at the *Weſt-Indies*. Come, come, I find you ſtink for want of Rubbing. Gentlemen, what need I mind you of theſe things? I hope you will ſearch into them, and inform me. It ſeems the Diſſenters and Phanaticks fare well amongſt you, by reaſon of the favour of the Magiſtrates; for example, if a Diſſenter, who is a Notorious and Obſtinate Offender, comes before them to be fined, one Alderman or other ſtands up and ſays, He is a good man (though three parts a Rebel); well then, for the ſake of Mr. Alderman, he ſhall be fined but 5 *s.* Then comes another, and up ſtands another Goodman Alderman, and ſays, I know him to be an honeſt man (though rather worſe than the former); Well, for Mr. Alderman's ſake he ſhall be Fined but half a Crown; ſo *Manus manum frirat*, You play the Knave for me now, and I will play the Knave for you by and by. I am aſhamed of theſe things: And I muſt not forget to tell you, that I hear of ſome differences amongſt the Clergy, thoſe that ought to Preach Peace and Unity to others: Gentlemen, theſe things muſt be looked into. I ſhall not now trouble you any further, there are ſeveral other things, but I expect to hear of them from you. And if you do not tell me of ſome of theſe things, I ſhall remind you of them. And I find by the Number of your Conſtables, this is a very large City, and it is impoſſible for one or two to ſearch into all the corners of it; therefore mind the Conſtables of their Duties, and call on them for their Preſentments; for I expect every Conſtable to bring in his Preſentment, or that you Preſent him. So Adjourn, *&c.*

FINIS.

Upon Affidavits read, and other Evidence againſt Sir *William Haymand* the Mayor, Alderman *Lawford* and others, for Kid-napping, there being Bills privately preferred to the Grand Jury by *John Rumſey*, and being found, he made the Mayor and the Aldermen concerned to go from the Bench to the Bar to plead to the Informations; uſing many Expreſſions, ſaying of the Mayor, See how the Kid-napping Rogue looks, *&c.*

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